

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An automated label applicator includes a pad assembly with a radio frequency (RF) antenna mounted thereon to test radio frequency identification (RFID) labels prior to label application. A reader/writer logic board is in communication with the RF antenna to determine whether a RFID label is suitable for receiving RF information. The RF antenna writes information on suitable labels and tests label for viability of the information. The pad assembly is movably connected to a tamp assembly and defines air passages in communication with a pneumatic power source to apply viable labels via a blow method or a tamp and blow method. The tamp assembly is slidably connected to a slide mount via a slide plate and slide bars to allow the pad assembly to move between a home position where viable labels are applied to target items and a rejection position where rejected labels are disposed of on a reject label platform.